

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

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DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: THE MILITARY SITUATION IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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Communist pressure continues against the district capitals of Duc Duc and Dai Loc in Quang Nam Province; Thuong Duc appears to have been captured. General Truong, the government's commander for Military Region 1, says he will not reinforce government units under attack in the Thuong Duc area. His plan is to block further Communist advancement toward Da Nang by reinforcing his units east of Thuong Duc. He remains confident, however, that he has sufficient forces to contain the upsurge in fighting in his region. The Communists sent fire rockets

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into Da Nang Thursday. It was the third shelling of the city in the past two weeks.

The action has increased somewhat in Pleiku Province, according to government military officials, and in coastal Binh Dinh. The Pleiku attacks consist mostly of harassment and road interdictions and are small-scale. They have officials in the province worried, however, that the upsurge may portend something stronger in a few days. In Binh Dinh Province, Communist gains in several of the northern districts are expected to be offset with the arrival soon of the government's 22nd Infantry Division from the highlands. A government military officer blames Communist success in capturing territory and cutting roads on the poor utilization of South Vietnamese territorial forces rather than superior tactics and strength on the part of the Communists.

Elsewhere in the country, fighting is light.